

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /061 W
-----063481 281534Z /53

O R 281451Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5350
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
WNFO RUDKPNQ/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 4452
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1020

SHAPE FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR AMBASSADOR KOMER AND ASD MCGIFFERT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NATO, NO
SUBJECT: GON INTEREST IN STINGER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY BECOME AWARE OF NORWEGIAN DISSATISFACTION
WITH USG LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS TO REPEATED REQUESTS BY SENIOR
MOD AND ARMED FORCES OFFICIALS FOR INFORMATION ON THE MAN-PORTABLE
STINGER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM.

2. THE GON HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE STEPS DURING THE
PAST SEVERAL YEARS TOWARD THE CORRECTION OF A SERIOUS DEFECT
IN THEIR DEFENSE POSTURE, ONE WHICH NATO REVIEWS HAVE CONSISTENTLY
UNDERSCORED; NAMELY, AIR DEFENSE. TO THIS END, TWO YEARS AGO,
THEY ORGANIZED A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO EVALUATE ALL KNOWN
SYSTEMS AND HAVE TWICE POSTPONED MAKING A FINAL DECISION IN THE
HOPE, IN VAIN AS IT TURNED OUT, OF RECEIVING ADEQUATE
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INFORMATION ON THE STINGER. ADDING SALT TO THE WOUND, WE
UNDERSTAND THE CHIEF OF NORWEGIAN DEFENSE, GENERAL HAMRE, WASH
NOT GIVEN THE FULL STINGER PRESENTATION DURING HIS RECENT
WASHINGTON VISIT, RECEIVING THE STANDARD UNCLASSIFIED VERSION
INSTEAD.

3. THE GON RECENTLY REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR A TEAM OF

AIR DEFENSE EXPERTS HEADED BY A GENERAL OFFICER TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN PURSUIT OF STINGER INFORMATION. THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN PRICE AND AVAILABILITY AND OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS TO INCLUDE THE PASSIVE OPTICAL SEEKER TECHNIQUE. THEY ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN ANY POSSIBILITIES FOR CO-PRODUCTION THAT MAY EXIST.

4. WE UNDERSTAND UNOFFICIALLY FROM MOD SOURCES, THAT THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS ADVISED BY DARCOM THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD ELICIT LITTLE BETTER RESPONSE AND THAT THE NORWEGIANS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR QUESTIONS THROUGH THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY. THEY WERE FURTHER INFORMED THAT QUESTIONS OF CO-PRODUCTION SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

5. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE STINGER SONEWALL, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT HAS NOT HELPED NORWAY UPGRADE ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND MOREOVER HAS CAUSED IRRITATION AMONG CERTAIN KEY DEFENSE POLICY MAKERS HERE.

6. IF THERE ARE SUBSTANTIVE REASONS WHY NORWAY CANNOT PROCURE THE STINGER SYSTEM, THEN WE WOULD URGE THAT WE BE INFORMED OF THEM SO THAT WE CAN EXPLAIN THE SITUATION, TURN OFF THEIR INTEREST AND ALLOW THE GON TO MOVE ON TO CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR LERNER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATIONS MARCH 3 AND HOPES
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TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH ASD MCGIFFERT.

7. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT NORWAY'S INTEREST IN STINGER CO-PRODUCTION IS MERELY A HARBINGER OF FUTURE GON POSITIONS ON DEFENSE ARTICLE PURCHASES. GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF THE NORWEGIAN ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO ENTICE MONEY OUT OF THE STORTING FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUYS, IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT JOBS WILL ACCOMPANY THE INVESTMENT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED:

- UPDATE ASAP ON STINGER PROGRAM AND RATIONALE FOR CLOSELY CONTROLLED INFORMATION FLOW TO ALLIES.
- DECISION WITH EXPLANATION ON WHETHER GON CAN RECEIVE ADEQUATE INFORMATION, TO INCLUDE CLASSIFIED, IN NEAR FUTURE AND WHETHER GON TEAM SHOULD TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, DEFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO01020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780091-1126
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978023/aaaaacnu.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63b9b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3527991
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GON INTEREST IN STINGER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM
TAGS: MASS, NO, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63b9b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014